

Under the HOOD

The Newsletter of RPM Foundation • Getting There

Message from the President

"Getting There" begins where formal education ends

One of the action steps in the RPM Foundation's mission is simply known as "Getting There." This is a term we use to describe the proactive passion that students, instructors and employers alike must tap in order to increasingly achieve career placement in the automotive and marine restoration trades.

What happens in the space between formal education and placement within the field is critical to success. Students who take the initiative by immersing themselves in RPM's resources – whether it be interview coaching, networking in **Shop Hop** or **Off to the Races** programs or accessing RPM's employer database – stand an increased chance of securing quality employment within the industry.

"Getting There" also includes outreach to employers to provide them a pool of skilled and eager job candidates to fill specialized positions. By working closely with these shop owners, RPM can anticipate their specific needs and target-fund curriculum that supports these career opportunities.

It includes working with educational institutions, such as McPherson College, as a post-graduate resource for job placement and acting as a thought-leader for tailoring future coursework to meet industry trends.

It involves the cultural education of parents to overcome stereotypes about their son or daughter seeking a career path in a vocational field, but who are open-minded to the possibilities of a secure, lucrative and satisfying career in the skilled trades.

And lastly, as our most recent **Shop Hop NASA** with RPM ambassador and astronaut Drew Feustel illustrated, it shows that not even the sky is the limit as to where an education in automotive technology can lead you.

"Getting There" may take many paths, but it remains our singular destination of achieving vocational growth in the automotive, motorcycle and marine restoration industry while providing life-changing opportunities for young people.

See you along the way,



Diane Fitzgerald,
President



Team RPM – (l to r) Linda Daro, Diane Fitzgerald,
Nick Ellis and Stacy Puckett Taylor.

AMERICA'S AUTOMOTIVE *Trust*

America's Automotive Trust sees an important opportunity to ensure that America's automotive legacy is celebrated and that vintage, and modern, collectible vehicles will be driven and enjoyed for generations to come. It's four entities rely on each other to share resources and information. From exhibitions of amazing collections, to educating the next generation of craftsmen, to philanthropy, our goals are the same.



AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM®

AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM

LeMay America's Car Museum is an international destination for families and auto enthusiasts to celebrate America's love affair with the automobile and learn how it shaped our society.



RPM FOUNDATION

The RPM Foundation accelerates the growth of the next generation of automotive and marine restoration and preservation craftsmen through formal training and mentorship.



CLUB AUTO

Club Auto lives at the heart of the car culture and brings enthusiasts of all types together to celebrate their shared passion for all things automotive.



CONCOURS CLUB

The Concours Club is an organization of those whose philanthropic support enables AAT and its member entities to fulfill our shared vision to secure America's automotive heritage.



PIT STOP From Goal to Reality

Everyone has dreams and goals, but often it's difficult to figure out how to achieve them. I learned a long time ago there is a difference between a

dream and a goal. A dream is something you "put out there", that would be wonderful to do/have/achieve some day. A goal is something you identify, then support with a plan of how to get there.

Recently the RPM Foundation hosted a group of automotive restoration students in Houston, TX to tour a private collection, attend the Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance, and tour the NASA Johnson Space Center. One of the amazing parts of this event was the opportunity to talk with astronaut Drew Feustel, an RPM Ambassador who is currently the Commander of the International Space Station, as he was circling in space. We didn't just get to send him questions; we got to talk with him as we sat in Mission Control. We watched him explain his background, his passion for cars and restoration, and his educational experience. He was even hanging upside down and taking us on a visual tour of the International Space Station. Extraordinary!!!

My takeaway from Drew's comments: Passion, Preparation and Opportunity. **PASSION:** Drew had a passion for cars since before he could drive. He took seven years to restore his first car – a Mustang. He loved working with his hands. His dream was to either become a Formula One race car driver or an astronaut. **PREPARATION:** Drew

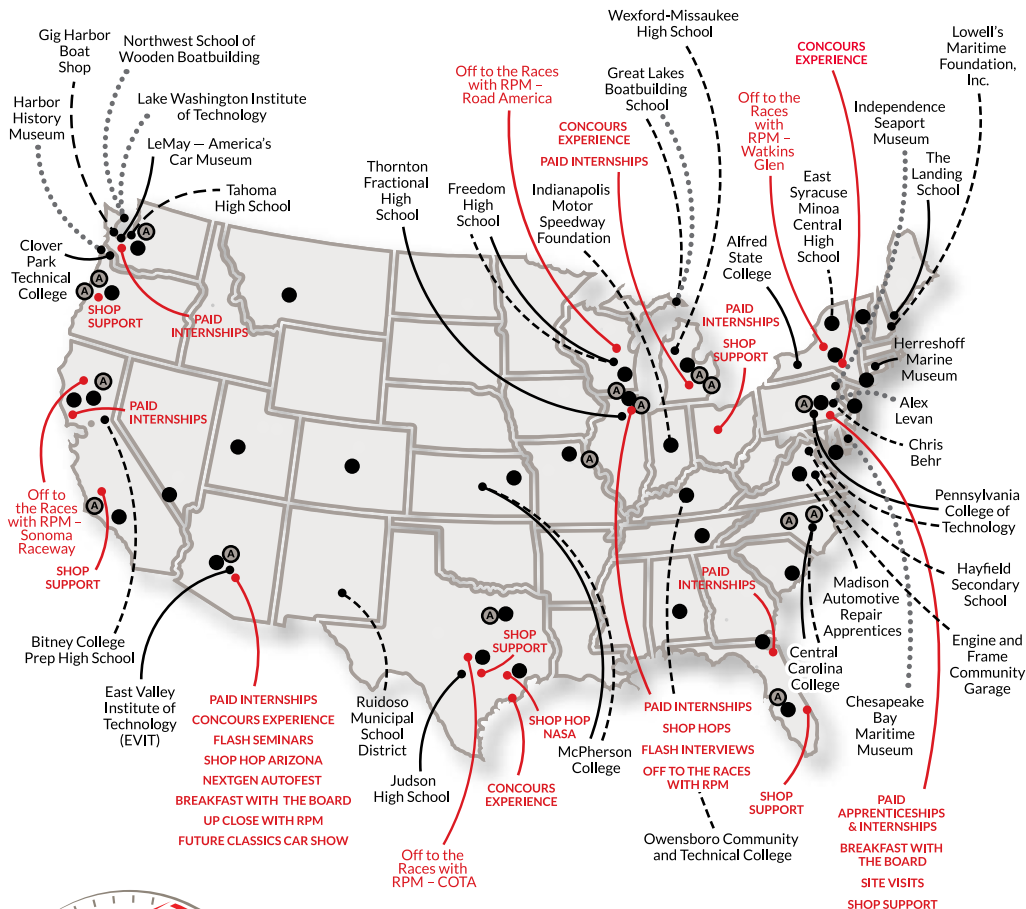


Lyn St. James joins RPM students at Mission Control during Shop Hop NASA.

went to community college to "grow up", worked in a restoration shop, and then went on to Purdue following his family history of Purdue graduates. **OPPORTUNITY:** He applied for the astronaut program after getting his educational degree, while continuing to collect and restore cars, and dedicated himself to the training which has enabled him to travel to space a number of times...including his current mission.

Drew's path was completely different than mine, which proves the point that there's not just ONE way to realize your dream and goals – and "getting there". Common threads to pay attention to: find your passion, work hard, be prepared, and always be committed to doing your best!

● PROGRAMS ● OUTREACH ● A AMBASSADORS ● GRANT AWARDEES



Lyn St. James with her race team in 2000 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.



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McPherson College Alumni Keep the RPM Engine Running

by BILL HALL, Collector, Elkhart Lake, WI

Previously, we've referred to the RPM Foundation as an engine that is designed to perpetually run. This is accomplished in no small measure by the restoration program graduates who have returned to RPM to offer their enthusiasm and expertise as program participants, ambassadors, grant administrators, and Board Members with the focused mission of "Getting There". And no single institution has fielded as many RPM alumni than its closest educational partner, McPherson College in McPherson, KS.

Since 2003, RPM has provided 87 scholarships and program funding – almost \$750,000 – to the Automotive Restoration program at McPherson, which is widely recognized as the leader in vocational training for the collector car industry.

Tabetha Hammer, who graduated in 2009, met her husband Adam while both were students at McPherson College. An RPM-sourced internship with a national Concours organization steered her towards an emphasis in communications and

a career at classic car insurer Hagerty as Senior Manager of Car Culture. Adam, a four-year RPM scholarship awardee, went on to open his own shop called Hammer & Dolly Auto Restorations in Traverse City, Michigan.

Tabetha credits that RPM internship experience for introducing her to the industry. "That was the kick-off to a group of contacts, supporters and dear friends that I still call on today." Tabetha now serves on the RPM Board of Directors, guiding the foundation with firsthand knowledge of the challenges facing skilled-trade students.

Stacy Puckett Taylor used her McPherson education to land an internship at the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Stuttgart, Germany after graduation in 2004. She then became the first collections manager for the then-new LeMay-America's Car Museum before taking a job at Paul Russell Restorations in Essex, MA as a resource manager.

Stacy met Paul Russell while he was a member of the McPherson College Advisory Board.

Asked to serve on an RPM discussion panel in 2016, Stacy took on a bigger role as ambassador, grant administrator and project manager in subsequent years. "RPM's mission is what everyone in this industry should be doing or thinking about in order to attract new people into the trade," said Stacy. "I think organizations like RPM acting as a thought-leader are critical to the industry moving forward."

To keep the RPM engine running into perpetuity, future foundation leaders are being cultivated even as they are beginning the first steps of their educational journey. Incoming McPherson freshman Sean Robinson from La Grange, IL, has already attended a number of RPM Shop Hops, Movie Nights and Car Show events. He looks forward to the day when it's his turn to help impact other student's careers through RPM.

"I like to take every opportunity I'm given – but I like to return those opportunities to others as well," said Sean. "I'd like to help give someone the same chances that I've had through RPM."

2017 – 2018 MCPHERSON / RPM SCHOLARS



Since 2005,
RPM has
awarded
almost
\$750k
to McPherson
College

Meet the Next Generation of Automotive Craftsmen

(l to r):

Gray Irwin, KS*
Zachary Alexander, KS
Braden Hess, PA
Abi Morgan, IL
Matthew Nutting, MA
Dylan Riley, MO
Erik Wallace, NC
Charles Hoehaver, AL

* Currently interning at
LeMay – America's Car Museum in
Tacoma, WA, sister organization of
RPM Foundation.



Lyons Township High School's 6th Annual Car Show is a fundraising event in support of their automotive program. Above-and-beyond the call of duty automotive teacher Jordan Engelhardt (far left) was named Teacher of the Year by SEMA in 2016 and is joined here with the 1929 Model A they are restoring, the Judging Team for the Annual Car Show and LTHS automotive students.

Lyons Township High School (LaGrange, IL) is a feeder school to McPherson College (McPherson, KS) and was "discovered" by Continental AutoSports owners and RPM supporters, John and Lisa Weinberger.

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Diane Fitzgerald, President
 Nick Ellis, Mentorship & Grants Administrator
 Linda Daro, Administrative Coordinator

PRESERVE THE PAST. BUILD THE FUTURE.

Who We Are + What We Do

The RPM Foundation supports Restoration and Preservation training programs and Mentoring for the next generation of automotive, motorcycle and marine craftsmen. As the educational arm of America's Automotive Trust, the services, resources and grants provided by RPM safeguard the future of the collector vehicle industry by sustaining hands-on training for young adults. RPM is based in Tacoma, WA with offices in Chicago, IL and Detroit, MI.

Supporting RPM Foundation – Thank You! Help us achieve our goal of raising \$1,000,000! Today, with funding requests more than triple what we are able to giveaway, we need your support. Donations of any size are deeply appreciated.

For more information, contact Diane Fitzgerald, President (diane@rpm.foundation, C: 312-543-5732 Direct: 855.537.4579 www.RPM.Foundation).

Yes! I would like to make a donation of:

☐ \$50 INDIVIDUAL DRIVER ☐ \$80 DUAL DRIVER ☐ \$95 FAMILY DRIVER ☐ \$120 BRONZE DRIVER ☐ \$300 SILVER DRIVER
☐ \$600 GOLD DRIVER ☐ \$1,200 CLUB AUTO ☐ Please accept my donation of \$_____ to RPM Foundation.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ My check is enclosed. ☐ Bill my VISA / MC / AMEX (circle)

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Card # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Donations of \$50 or more receive a complimentary membership to LeMay – America's Car Museum, an entity of America's Automotive Trust.

Please send your donation to: RPM Foundation, 2702 East D Street, Tacoma, WA 98421
Or you may make a donation online at: www.rpm.foundation

As a U.S. Treasury approved 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the RPM Foundation is qualified to accept tax deductible gifts and enables a donor to arrange charitable contributions in ways that maximize personal objectives in a tax effective manner.



AMERICA'S AUTOMOTIVE *Trust*

RPM Foundation is the educational arm of America's Automotive Trust.